Here’s what they say—and what wall and ceiling contractors intend to enjoy—about New Mexico.

You can eat Mexican food, dress like a cowboy, see Indian ceremonials, ride in a hot air balloon, shop for top quality American art and Indian jewelry, eat a sandwich in a hot tub, and ride the world’s longest tramway to the top of a 10,300-foot peak . . . or climb the mountain if you’ve a mind to.

On top of that, AWCI will be offering a number of other exciting events—at least from the time period March 29 to April 3, 1982 when the AWCI Annual Convention is held there.

What made Albuquerque the odds-on choice as the 1982 convention site was the chance to see a part of the country that is not all that familiar to most Americans—plus some fine convention facilities.

Albuquerque’s Convention Center, built in 1972, has some 90,000 square feet of exhibit space, an auditorium which seats 2,500 people, three dining rooms and 17 meeting rooms.

That’s just for the exhibit and convention sessions.

Weather Outstanding

When you consider the fact that you just can’t beat the weather in Albuquerque, where all four seasons are pleasant, you begin to understand why the AWCI convention promises to be a unique experience. Where can you get summers that are warm and dry, and winters that are also sunny with temperatures in the 50s.

As a matter of fact, it’s even possible that when AWCI is in Albuquerque the weather will be such that snow will still be atop the Sandia Mountains. That means you can perhaps ski in the morning and play golf or tennis the same afternoon.

There are 100 public tennis courts in Albuquerque, many of them lighted; seven of them provide tennis lessons. There is also a tennis complex with 16 courts, four handball courts, pro shop and full-time pros.

Golf, anyone? Seven public golf courses are open daily with such amenities as driving ranges, putting greens and pro shops. Several have 9-hole executive courses in addition to the 18-hole course. Add to that some four private clubs where it may be possible to make guest arrangements as well.

There are 60 art galleries in this city of 400,000 population. Much of the work they show is high quality because artists like the quality of life in the Albuquerque area and choose to live there.

The cultural communical also supports a variety of live-theater groups, plus a line-up of live entertainment that could make larger cities jealous. You have your choice of jazz, top 40 rock, Spanish music, disco, “upbeat Western,” bluegrass and Country and Western.

Getting around to see the sights should present no problem to anyone. The convention bureau lists a wide variety of transportation and sightseeing companies, ranging from Grayline, to “Discover Albuquerque” to a firm called “unconventional Sightseeing Tours” that offers
Eat Mexican Food, Dress Like Cowpunchers, Ride Balloons, Shop—and Just Enjoy—in AWCI’s 1982 Convention City

to let you “create your own tour.”

One exciting place to visit during your stay in Albuquerque is Old Town, right across the road from the Sheraton Old Town. This historic area developed around the small abode chapel that served the settlement established in 1706. Albuquerque was an important way-station and trading center on the Chihuahua Trail from Santa Fe to Mexico City. In 1846, New Mexico became a state.

The Old Town’s gaslit Plaza and wrought iron benches still invite visitors, as do dozens of galleries and shops that display contemporary and traditional arts and crafts and restaurants that feature New (and Old) Mexican foods.

If you prefer American there are plenty of choices including High Finance, the restaurant at the top of the tram, on the peak of Mt. Sandia. Plan for your group to arrive in time for a sunset cocktail.

Some nineteen Indian pueblos operate the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque, with a museum and shop and exhibitions by tribal artists and dancers. You can visit their pueblos with advance permission.

The city has a zoo and a museum of anthropology as well as a state park with petroglyphs (rock carvings) done by ancient man. Life of the future is on display at the National Atomic Museum on Kirkland Air Force Base. When the International Hot Air Balloon Fiesta takes place every October, the clear blue sky fills with hundreds of multi-colored balloons.

Albuquerque is the home of Ban Abruzzo, Maxie Anderson and Larry Newman, who crossed the Atlantic by balloon, as well as the home of the famous Indianapolis 500 Unser brothers, Al and Bobby.

Because there is no one area in which the city’s hotels are clustered, the city provides free shuttle busing for conventions using the Convention Center. The major hotels all provide a free airport shuttle as well, a pleasant surprise when you can put your $5 bill back in your pocket.

Albuquerque is strategically located for access from Denver, Salt Lake City, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Phoenix, El Paso, Houston, Dallas, Oklahoma City and Kansas City. It is a main stop on Amtrack between Chicago and Los Angeles. Its international airport is served by seven major airlines: Continental, TWA, Frontier, American, Eastern, Southwest, and Texas International.

Santa Fe Nearby

An hour from Albuquerque is the capital city, Santa Fe, a major tourist attraction in its own right with its Spanish and Indian heritage. The marks are unmistakable—with much use of adobe, no skyscrapers and covered sidewalks.

It is a city of rodeos, horse shows, horseracing; a city of opera (every summer in a spectacular outdoor amphitheater) and a city of fiesta (every September starting with the burning of Old Man Gloom). A city of culture and means, Santa Fe supports year-round chamber music, community theater and ballet. Summers are pleasantly cool—considerably cooler than Albuquerque because of the 7,000-foot elevation.
A real mining Ghost town. It's Madrid, near Albuquerque—but New Mexico is filled with such old, haunting cities of the past.

Sweeney Convention Center, a block from the historic downtown Plaza, has an auditorium for 1,000 and two meeting rooms for 150 and 20.

Santa Fe is a good base to explore mountain villages, Indian pueblos and the remote regions of Northern New Mexico to visit Bandelier National Monument, Pecos National Monument and the Puye Cliff Dwellings, or to ride a 19th Century narrow-gage railroad out of Chama.

Arts and crafts are in abundance. A concentration of galleries, shops, restaurants and boutiques can be found in Canyon road, and the city is also served by a number of other museums of art and anthropology.

Santa Fe features six downtown hotels with a total of 675 first-class rooms. Five minutes from downtown is an outstanding ranch resort—The Bishop’s Lodge. It’s a homey, casual, yet elegant place.

Here where the Archbishop of New Mexico had his ranch, are colorful, comfortable accommodations in individual buildings on gentle sloping terrain and flowering trees and lush lawns. There is something for everyone—five championship tennis courts, swimming, trap and skeet shooting range, whirlpool, bath, saunas, guest privileges on two private golf courses, mountain streams nearby for anglers and a well-stocked trout pond on-site for youngsters. The food is hard to top and equally hard to resist.

There are stables on-property, too. Experienced wranglers are available to guide your groups on a range ride that include breakfast; flapjacks and eggs, flaky biscuits and a camp pot of coffee with the fragrance of the wild, wild west.

In Mescalero, New Mexico, the Mescalero Apaches operate the Inn of the Mountain Gods on 460,000 acres of timberland with bountiful hunting and fishing. The Inn has 134 rooms and four meeting rooms for 60 to 440. Lake Mescalero provides summer sailing or canoeing and there’s horseback riding in flower-laden meadows and swimming and tennis at the Inn.